



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

MEETING MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume-absent
Michael Mackin
Colleen Shapiro
Brendan Grady
Heather Sroka

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

Student Representative

Sophia Holman

Guests

LHS Student Council Members
Ms. Dawn Grebinar & THMS Students
Ms. Tammy Yourk & Foreign Language Students

Call to Order –the meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mr. Mackin. Mr. Mackin reminded the public that the meeting was being live taped for future broadcast on Cable Access and You Tube.

Chair's Report-no chairs report was discussed due to Dr. Berthiaume's absence.

Review and Approve Minutes-there were no minutes for approval.

Review and Approve Warrants-warrants were on table for signature one line item transfer was presented and submitted by Mr. Londa. Superintendent Calmes is recommending approval for transferring \$17,300 from Utility Services Electricity line to Natural Gas line resulting in a balance of \$185,800. Mr. Londa explained that this year's cost increase was almost 40% and a 15% increase in natural gas. Seeing a 1.7% increase in cost from last year's expenditures. Although a 6.7% decrease in usage of kilowatt hours has been achieved due to LED lighting, and updated 1 horsepower generator with ½ horsepower generator. Ms. Sroka motioned to accept line item transfer, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

Superintendent's Report –

- Superintendent Calmes attended a public hearing at FSU concerning a discussion of educators and the state board of education regarding PARCC assessments-options for districts have been to pilot these assessments or to continue with MCAS testing. Last year Lunenburg Public Schools piloted the PARCC assessment; this year chose to stay with MCAS only. Testimony given from districts participating in PARCC-

technical challenges but supported, students not intimidated by online assessments, amount of time needs to be reviewed in regards to taking assessments in March and then continuing to take June assessment. PARCC seen as more rigorous exam than MCAS overall. Additional concerns of common core and corporations usurping local governing authority relative to curriculum. More public hearings will be held in Commonwealth.

- Congratulated National Latin exam students. Over 30 students participated. Thomas Flaherty 4th gold award received. Pictures of students with certificates posted on Facebook. Superintendent Calmes thanked teachers Ms. Tammy Yourk and Ms. Sharon Kimball as well as students for their hard work and participation.
- Casey Collette and Leanne Reed received Chamber of Commerce scholarships. Jake DeGrace and Ashley Hyde signed national letters of intent to accept athletic scholarships. Ashley is going to Southern Connecticut State University and Jake is going to UMASS Amherst.
- Kaliah Mathieu recognized by Massachusetts Medical Society for the poster she created as one of only 12 students in Commonwealth. On June 3rd she will travel to State House with her parents and THMS teachers Ms. Robin Warren and Ms. Sandy Laserte to attend an award ceremony.
- Superintendent Calmes encouraged the community to come out tomorrow night to support third grade students as they raise awareness to end hunger. Enjoy a festive meal with soup donated from local restaurants for a good cause.
- “Guys and Dolls” kicks off performances this Friday in the LHS auditorium at 7pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and senior citizens.
- Ms. Foyle, LEA president and Superintendent Calmes attended a beneficial workshop on labor management relations, and on how working together can make significant changes in student/teacher leadership. Report sharing at later date.

Student Representative's Report-Ms. Holman reported last Friday was Special Olympics, which went extremely well. Course registration due Monday May 4th, Prom May 23rd 6pm at Great Wolf Lodge, boys lacrosse, girls and boys track meet tomorrow

School Building Committee Report-next meeting next Wednesday 4:30pm in construction trailer. Stud work completed in building “A”, substantial completion in building “B”, fireproofing completed in “A”, concrete work nearly complete, major pour next week in building “D”, continue to see movement, time lost due to weather now picking up, roofing in progress, will be completed counterclockwise starting at “A”, still on budget, no change orders yet.

New Business:

a. Time Capsule Presentation- Mr. Sheasgreen & Ms. Grebinar thanked Superintendent Calmes for encouraging and supporting community service learning projects within the District. They also thanked Mr. Santry for all of his support for this project. Students came to podium to present a time capsule presentation to the school committee members and public with historical facts relating to Paul Revere and Samuel Adams time capsule found in cornerstone of State House in Boston. This contained ½ cent coin, 5 newspapers, Mass Commonwealth seal for history and connection to past. Students want to

commemorate an exciting time in school history to reflect past, present and future. Would like to preserve an archive by having a community based project of artifacts containing items of significance-ceremony booklet, coins, menu, book review, selfies, and Mrs. Bassett donated a THMS dated hat and t-shirt. Time capsule could be in concrete within the structure of the building or placed in a shadow box as a visual showpiece or part of the outdoor classroom. Students will need community awareness, collection of artifacts, writing samples, etc., asking for community support. Mr. Grady commented that the principals and teachers have done a fantastic job with this project. Children on record are Nicole Lefebvre, Britney Randall, Sarah Keohane, Amber Greeb, Abigail Harrison, and Dale Linabury. Superintendent Calmes expressed her appreciation of the additional information given surrounding the history around time capsules and thanked both the teachers and students for all of their time and hard work. Motion of support for project given by Mr. Grady, Ms. Sroka seconded motion.

Vote: Unanimous

* Old Business:

a. LHS Student Council Conference Report-Natalie Proctor and Gabriella Masciarelli attended conference in beginning of March in Hyannis for the Mass Association of Student Councils. Both students new to conference this year, which represents all student councils in Mass. Both students relayed that everyone there was very accepting and welcoming, easy to make new friends, great sharing of ideas, workshops to become better leaders. Examples of suggestions to try were “no phone Friday”- have students put away cell phones for one day so students will talk to each other, Painting parking spots another idea. Natalie discussed that it was about being yourself in school and discussions about four different types of love for family friends, etc. The difference that you make in your community is what matters-spread love to those who need it, who are not comfortable being leaders or not accepted. Both students looking forward to implementing new ideas this fall. Superintendent. Calmes suggested that the new advisory coming in the fall was a great opportunity to incorporate these suggestions. Thanked student council for all of their efforts

b. Rome, Florence, Venice Trip Report- introduced Ms. Yourk-brought 5 Latin students and one parent on the trip. Darion Lyons, LHS student, came to podium to speak on behalf of the group that participated. She said that initially there had not been much interest, which changed some aspects of the trip. Made a lot of new friends when they combined with other schools for this trip. Being in Italy for nine days without parents, she realized how independent she could be. Highlights of trip in Florence-climbed to top of bell tower, coliseum, gondola, landscape was beautiful, In Vatican-had rosaries blessed by pope. Thanked School Committee for allowing trip approval, planning 2016 trip to France, Spain and Italy. Ms. Yourk hoping for larger attendance this time. Superintendent Calmes appreciated bringing trip to school committee early for approval due to collection of funds, etc. that is always involved. Thanked teachers for working diligently with agency to further education of students.

Public Comment –Mr. Mackin thanked Mr. Grady for his service on the school committee board these past years. Mr. Grady commented that if the public has the opportunity to serve,

please do for the opportunity to see how schools and districts work, new school project, and to ask questions. Feedback from public is highly important-cannot improve without it.

Reports:

- a. Finance Committee-no report
- b. School Councils- all reported last week.
- c. PTO- Ms. Sroka reported there will be a meeting Monday for elections.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee-finished for school year.
- e. Capital Planning Committee-Ms. Sroka reported that they met last night. Looking for 10 year projection from all department heads. Trying to get all department heads together for a workshop in the summer. Mr. Londa was present. Superintendent Calmes interested in seeing what people are looking for in regards to the master capital plan. Welcome the opportunity to accept suggestions and review.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee-Ms. Shapiro reported that they haven't met since last report.
- g. PAC/SAL-Ms. Shapiro relayed that the meeting will be held this Friday
- h. Reuse Committee-joint meeting, action items discussion with SBC next week, project impact of plot lines
- i. Transition/Reconfiguration- Superintendent Calmes reported that they haven't met since last report
- j. Diversity Advisory Committee-Superintendent Calmes reported that they have not met yet, however Ms. Hanscom has sent an email to all members with availability of dates.
- k. Start-Time Sub-Committee-need to schedule another meeting.

Topics for Future Discussion:

- a. District Improvement/Strategic Plan
- b. One-to-One Computing/Technology Plan
- c. Recommended adding updating the Master Plan/Capital Plan

Superintendent Calmes recognized the proclamation for teacher appreciation, thanked them for their extraordinary work. Was very impressed as to the wonderful way the student body participated in the recent topping off ceremony. Video posted on YouTube by Cable Access.

Today is School Nurses Day, Bus Drivers Appreciation Day was on Monday. Please come out and vote, Saturday May 16th at Town Election. Polls open at 7am at TCP.

Adjournment- Mr, Mackin made a motion to adjourn at 7:44pm. Seconded by Ms. Sroka.
Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen
Recording Secretary
